



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the works of the eminent Socialist. The reasons why so few readers have a direct acquaintance with Fourier lie in his grotesque vocabulary, the extent of his writings, and their lack of orderly arrangement. "It would not be an unfruitful task," says the editor, "to give to the public an abridged and, so to speak, civilized edition of the works of Fourier." What he has now done is to give in a compact volume of two hundred and thirty pages a selection that includes Fourier's statement of general social forces and tendencies, his indictment of civilization, and his detailed plans for a new society.

While in the case of most writers a volume of excerpts would mar the unity of the works from which they were taken, in the present instance the reverse is the case. The little volume has actually created a degree of unity that was wanting in the extended works. The book contains a biographical and critical introduction that is written in a sympathetic spirit, and will be highly useful, both to economic students and to general readers.

J. B. CLARK.

A SHORT HISTORY OF ANGLO-SAXON FREEDOM. The Polity of the English-speaking Race: Outlined in Its Inception, Development, Diffusion, and Present Condition. By JAMES K. HOSMER, Professor in Washington University; Author of "A Life of Samuel Adams," "A Life of Young Sir Henry Vane," etc. Pp. 420. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1890.

IN his preface Mr. Hosmer says: "There ought to be room for a book succinct and simple in its terms, which should tell to busy men and to youth in the class-room the story of Anglo-Saxon freedom." That there is not only room for such a book, but a great need of it, no intelligent person can deny; and that Mr. Hosmer's work is well adapted to supply the deficiency few of his readers will be inclined to doubt. History, in the minds of most Americans, after a brilliant prelude in the landing of the Pilgrims, the birth of Washington, and the battle of Bunker Hill, began in earnest with the Declaration of

Independence. Certain events, it is true, like the execution of Charles I., the Wars of the Roses, the Norman Conquest, the murder of Julius Cæsar, and the passage of the Red Sea, had occurred earlier; but they were rather morally than politically instructive, and had little direct connection with ourselves. Scholars have long been telling us that the real stream of our social and political forces is to be traced through the whole course of English history to a tiny spring that flowed out of the darkness of the German forests. This idea can easily be exaggerated, and has, perhaps, been carried too far by some recent English writers, but in the main it is sound, and Mr. Hosmer deserves much praise for putting it into a form which is accessible to all people. The difficulties of treating so large a subject in so small a space are very great, and he is to be congratulated on his success in making his book interesting throughout, and avoiding that dryness which is almost inseparable from excessive condensation.

He begins with the "Primitive Saxons," and shows great skill in giving a clear description of their political condition, while referring at the same time to the contradictory views of different authorities on the subject. Then follows an account of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman Conquests, the Granting of Magna Charta, and the Rise of Parliament. In these last two chapters he makes a statement (pages 50, 61, and 81) which, though often repeated and generally believed, is open to criticism. Parliament in the Middle Ages, he says, established the principle "that a redress of grievances must precede a grant to the Crown." Mr. Hosmer shares the prevalent opinion that this principle was the corner-stone of English liberty, but it may be doubted whether that opinion is quite correct, and whether the principle in question was ever fully established at all. It is true that on certain important occasions, such as those when the confirmation or renewal of charters was wrung from the King, the Commons obtained what they demanded before supplying his needs, and it is said that

the presentation of their petitions always preceded the grant of taxes. But the political history of the Middle Ages is full of the struggles of Parliament to compel the actual redress of grievances which had been stated in petitions over and over again, and of more or less successful attempts on the part of the King to evade the execution of his promises in regard to them. It is impossible in a short review to cite examples, and it may be enough here to refer to Stubbs's *Constitutional History of England*, Chap. XVII. §§ 289, 290, where this question is treated at some length. In the course of his remarks Stubbs says: "The idea of making supply depend upon the actual redress could only be realized under a system of government for which the nations of Europe were not yet prepared: under that system of limited monarchy secured by ministerial responsibility, toward which England, at least, was feeling her way." Parliament took a long step toward securing the actual redress of grievances when it substituted for petitions the passage of bills drafted in the form of statutes. This change seems to have been pretty thoroughly effected about the time of Henry VII., although it had begun earlier. But the principle that a redress of all grievances must precede a grant to the Crown cannot be said to have become absolutely complete until the royal veto fell into disuse, and Parliament redressed its own grievances without the assistance of the King.

Mr. Hosmer follows the course of English history to the reign of Charles I., and, after describing the settlement of the Colonies, he follows it again to the American Revolution. He then considers the Constitution of the United States, and the history of Great Britain for the last hundred years. And here, it seems to us, that he gives a somewhat disproportionate prominence to the influence of English political models on the character of American institutions, and exaggerates the effect of American democracy on British reform. Under the title "Present Condition of American Polity," he next makes a very instructive

survey of the development of local government in this country, and concludes the book with three chapters on the prospects of Anglo-Saxon freedom. In these last his enthusiasm for the race has a tendency to run away with his judgment, and his visions for the future might well strike a stranger to the blood as a trifle fanciful. It must be added, on the other hand, that although the book is written, to a great extent, as a panegyric on democracy, the treatment of history is surprisingly impartial.

A. LAWRENCE LOWELL.

Boston.

THE CONFLICTS OF CAPITAL AND LABOR, HISTORICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY CONSIDERED. Being a History and Review of the Trade Unions of Great Britain, showing their Origin, Progress, Constitution, and Objects, in their varied Political, Social, Economical, and Industrial Aspects. By GEORGE HOWELL, M.P. 2d ed., 8vo., pp. xxxvi., 536. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1890.

To those acquainted with the earlier edition of this work it is unnecessary to speak of its general characteristics, or to say that the author argues for trade unions by describing them, and that his description is clear, candid, and thorough. The first edition appeared in 1878, and to its influence is partly due the great change observable since that date in the attitude of the general public toward trade unions, both in England and the United States.

Indeed Mr. Howell's experience exemplifies the truth so often stated that the radical of one period becomes the conservative of the next. In his preface to the second edition he notes the fact, which may be easily verified by reference to the files of English periodical literature, that "in 1878 trade unions were denounced in the press, on the platform, in the pulpit, and in Parliament; not occasionally, but constantly, persistently, and virulently." On the other hand, he states, with equal truth, that "now trade unions are being praised and commended by all sorts and conditions of men, their influence is sought socially